

**Amendments to the specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 7, and ending on page 17, line 3, as follows:

FIG. 4 shows a block diagram of an example architecture of an embodiment of an adaptive suppression device 40 according to the present invention, implementing the above method. The device 40 includes: a low-pass filter (LPF) block 42; a local variance compute block 44 that computes the local deviation  $\sigma(y, x)$  for a pixel in a window based on neighboring pixels; a signal detection function block 46 that ~~uses~~ inputs the local variances  $\sigma(y, x)$  to detect location of the window in relation to noisy and signal areas in the input picture using  $\beta(y, x)$ ; a ringing-like detection function block 48 that detects ringing-like patterns using the function  $g(y, x)$   ~~$\beta(y, x)$~~ ; a ringing-like area detection block 50 that uses detection of noisy/signal area and detection of ringing-like-patterns in the ringing-like pattern area function  $\gamma(y, x)$  to determine if window is around ringing-like pattern area in the picture; and a combiner 52 that selectively combines portions of  $\{I_n\}$  with portions of  $I_{LPF}(y, x)$  based on detected ringing-like pattern areas (as described), to generate enhanced output signal  $J(y, x)$  representing an output picture in which ringing-like areas are essentially suppressed .